Las grandes mentiras 12 Declaración de Cuba 12

MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 68, No. 6 February 12, 2026 $1

What Trump's racist video reveals

WW COMMENTARY

By Monica Moorehead

There is absolutely no denying that Donald Trump is a bonafide white supremacist whose mission is to turn back the clock to the days of enslavement and the Confederacy. He has shown this in both words and deeds with the removal of federal monuments and public artifacts acknowledging that slavery existed along with the resistance to it.

The latest example of this mission is the five-minute video recently posted on his social media displaying former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama in the most vile, despicable racist way, too disturbing to repeat in this commentary. Every Black person, including this writer, should understandably feel personally insulted and disgusted.

However, Trump's attack on Barack Obama is not based on any differences in class orientation. As president, Obama was the main face of imperialism just as Trump is that face today, despite any political differences. The real target of Trump's vile depiction was all Black people in particular and people of color in general.

Charlottesville, Virginia, August 2017. WW PHOTO

Trump has stated that the U.S. is becoming too Black and too Brown, a threat in his eyes to the still majority white population. This is a big motivation for him deploying Immigration and Customs Enforcement fascist thugs throughout the U.S. to instill fear into migrants — whose origins are primarily based in the Global South — with detentions and deportations.

Trump's video also reflects the racist views of the majority white, billionaire capitalist class. This is why members of his own party forced him to take down the video hours after its posting in fear of him putting the decades-long racism of the right-wing-dominated Republican Party in an uncomfortable defense.

Even right-wing Democrats share the same racist views but do everything possible to maintain the façade of the Democratic Party representing working and oppressed people. The bottom line is both capitalist parties are big business and pro-war oriented.

There is a famous Marxist expression: "The ideas of any time reflect the ideas of the ruling class." The enormous wealth of the U.S. ruling class was first accumulated off the stolen land of Indigenous peoples and the superprofits off the enslaved labor of African people. The ruling-class ideas of these crimes continue to be upheld by all forms of white supremacy, a major pillar of class society that keeps the billionaires in power and the working class divided.

But as we see in the streets of Minneapolis and elsewhere, white supremacy is crumbling every day under the weight of growing working-class unity. ☐

Houston students rally for kidnapped classmate

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

Students at Sam Houston High School in Houston rallied after school on Feb. 3, because their friend and classmate, Mauro Henriquez-Sanchez, has not been at school since he was kidnapped by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in December. His classmates are worried about him. He was to graduate in May 2026 and is the captain of the school's varsity soccer team.

ICE detained Henriquez-Sanchez on Dec. 16 following an asylum check-in. They also detained his father. They were both following the procedures given them when they applied for asylum. Students were angry about this. Faculty members joined the students and spoke out as well. They all carried homemade signs and several spoke with the news media.

The head soccer coach told the crowd: "I would wish my 16-year-old daughter could have a friend as kind and intelligent as Mauro. He was beginning a good life and now — what's going to happen to him?"

Schoolmates, teachers and community supporters raised money for an immigration lawyer in hopes their friend can return to school. ☐

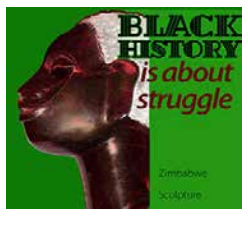
Houston, Feb. 3, 2026. WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

4–5 ICE and prison profiteers
Rebellion at ICE center
Justice for Parady La
Mumia on Venezuela
Letters to prisoners

More Epstein files released 3
BAP boycott: U.S. & the World Cup 3
Resistance to ICE grows 6-7
Editorials: 10
Big Lies – help them crumble!
Palestine & Minneapolis

Black History Month

Reconstruction legacy 8
Lessons for youth 9
Can't erase struggles, past & present 9



Regional significance of Palestine 11 Mediterranean dockworkers strike 11

Workers World honors Black History Month every day!

Since its inception, Workers World newspaper has highlighted the Black Liberation struggle and Civil Rights Movement and has celebrated their heroes, from Denmark Vesey and Nat Turner to Frederick Douglass, Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

WW covers struggles to free political prisoners, such as Mumia Au-Jamal. Our newspaper honors trailblazing Black women, including Ella Baker, Fannie Lou Hamer, Marsha P. Johnson, Rosa Parks, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman and Ida B. Wells.

We strongly condemn the Trump administration's directive to federal agencies to axe celebrations of holidays that commemorate important events in the history of the Black Liberation Movement — Black History Month, Juneteenth and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We denounce the White House's decree that national parks and government buildings remove exhibits and materials depicting the evils of enslavement.

Feb. 21, 2026, will mark the 61st anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X.

Underneath these decrees is blatant racism — actually white supremacy — which has existed since August 1619, when the first group of kidnapped, enslaved African people arrived in the U.S. The decrees aim to erase the historical role of Black people, obliterate the struggles they have waged to win every right and gain for their community and deny them equal rights and the respect they deserve.

Trump's dictates are intended to reverse the gains Black people made both prior to and during the historic Civil Rights Movement and erase the holidays which this movement won and are celebrated countrywide.

The Reconstruction Era's promises did not end racism, discrimination and anti-Black violence. The revolution to ensure democratic rights is still unfinished. As the great abolitionist Frederick Douglass said, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

Concurrently, the Trump / Vance regime revels in denigrating Haitian and Somali immigrants, as well as Latine, Arab, Asian and other migrants of color and their countries of origin — while sending federal immigration agents to terrorize, detain and deport them. But there is growing resistance!

Be a WW Supporter!

This pro-worker newspaper depends on our readers' backing. The WW Supporter Program was launched 49 years ago to help publish this socialist newspaper and, over 35 years ago, to support workers.org, where new articles are posted daily and the weekly paper's PDF is posted and archived.

Workers.org contains news and analysis of global and U.S. struggles, bulletins from Palestinian and other national liberation movements and articles translated by our staff. Our writer-organizers report on anti-capitalist struggles and people's movements against racism and war — and for the rights of Black, Latiné, Arab, Asian and Indigenous people, women, workers, migrants, prisoners, LGBTQIA2S+ communities, low-income, elderly and disabled individuals. Prisoners receive all print issues for free. **The website is a resource for political activists.**

While WW's staff is voluntary, the 12 annually printed and mailed issues and workers.org incur expenses. Although many online publications require payment to read their articles, WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

Can you donate $50, $100 or $200 or more a year? Contributing $50 or a higher amount will entitle you to receive all print issues and five emails per week linking to online articles.

Your donations help get class truth to more readers — and are appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001. ☐

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at ***www.workers.org/join-form*** and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. ☐

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact:

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this week

In the U.S.
What Trump's racist video reveals 1
Houston students rally for kidnapped classmate . . 1
Epstein files further expose capitalist misogyny . . 3
Black Alliance for Peace calls boycott of U.S. 3
Boston: Demand for 'Trans Health Care Shield' . . 6
Seattle students walk out against ICE 6
Brown Berets say no ICE in Aztlan 6
Activists at Target: 'ICE out now!' 7
No deportations of Haitian migrant workers! 7
Ohio demonstrations for Haitian migrants 7
Du Bois' 'Black Reconstruction' & labor unity 8
What Black History Month means to Black youth 9
Trump can't erase Black history. 9

Around the world
The significance of the Palestinian struggle 11
Mediterranean strike obstructs arms deliveries. . 11

Tear down the walls
ICE fuels massive rise in U.S. carceral system 4
Migrants rebel in South Texas detention center . . 4
Send letters to Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores . . 4
After death in custody, family demands justice . . . 5
Mumia: Trump's "Stick-up – your oil or else" 5

Editorial
Big Lies – help them crumble! 10
What unites Palestine and Minneapolis 10

Mundo Obrero
Las grandes mentiras 12
Declaración de Cuba 12

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Newly released Epstein files further expose capitalist misogyny

WW COMMENTARY

By Martha Grevatt

On January 30, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) released another 3 million documents concerning the wealthy finance capitalist and convicted sexual abuser Jeffrey Epstein.

If anyone hoped this latest release would bring the victims/survivors of Epstein's torture even an inch closer to justice, they were extremely disappointed. On the contrary. According to Brad Edwards, an attorney for the survivors: "We are getting constant calls from victims because their names — despite them never coming forward, being completely unknown to the public — have all just been released for public consumption. It's literally thousands of mistakes."

Jennifer Freeman, another attorney for the survivors, stated that the "handling of the Epstein files has been a mess from the start, filled with … ham-fisted redactions, while exposing the identities of survivors." The redactions are of names of possible alleged perpetrators!

A group of 20 survivors spoke up, saying in a joint statement: "As survivors, we should never be the ones named, scrutinized and re-traumatized while Epstein's enablers continue to benefit from secrecy. Once again, survivors are having their names and identifying information exposed, while the men who abused us remain hidden and protected. That is outrageous." (theguardian.com, Feb. 1)

The files were released over a month after the legal deadline of Dec. 19, 2025, under the Epstein Files Transparency Act — passed by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump. Moreover, while the Act calls for the release of all of the Epstein files, Deputy U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche indicated that some 3 million pages of additional files would be withheld.

Survivors spoke the truth!

The survivors are right that the DOJ's handling of the files is "outrageous." But this is just one example of the systemic misogyny and patriarchal oppression under capitalism. The working-class and oppressed women, girls and gender-oppressed people who Epstein abused for years continue to be denied justice. The numerous rich and powerful men who Epstein enabled or who enabled Epstein still face no punishment.

Epstein survivors hold press conference, Nov. 18, 2025.

While the names of many of these misogynistic criminals were redacted (blocked out or deleted), the latest files reveal Epstein's connections with numerous ruling class figures. Those named include banking and corporate executives, current and former elected officials and members of several royal families. Some are familiar names: Bill Gates, Elon Musk, Bill Clinton, Steve Bannon and Larry Summers.

Many of those not exposed as sexual abusers themselves knowingly exchanged financial favors with Epstein after his 2008 conviction for procuring a child for prostitution and in the time leading up to his 2019 arrest on sex trafficking charges. Epstein died in his cell before being tried.

The financial corruption had a negative impact on the working class: a Detroit city workers' pension fund was reportedly defrauded through a transaction with Epstein.

How do these wealthy men get away with it?

Sigrid McCawley, a partner with Boies Schiller Flexner, a firm representing survivors, said, "It is without question that a significant piece of Epstein and [his convicted associate Ghislaine] Maxwell's vast sex-trafficking operation was to provide young women and girls to other wealthy and powerful individuals." (theguardian.com, Feb. 1)

How do so many wealthy and powerful men get away with such horrific and clearly illegal abuse?

It's what happens to working-class and oppressed women, girls and gender-oppressed people in class society.

The beginnings of the patriarchy can be traced to the introduction of private property, as explained by Friedrich Engels in "The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State." In systems of class exploitation, ruling-class men view the women and girls of the exploited classes as their property. This was true in earlier systems of enslavement and feudalism and certainly during the enslavement of Africans in the U.S. and in much of the Western Hemisphere. The capitalists were vastly enriched by enslavement.

This misogynistic exploitation still exists under capitalism. How many working-class women over the years have had to sleep with their boss just to keep their jobs?

Justice for survivors will happen, but only when the working class unites to put an end to all exploitation and oppression. ❐

Black Alliance for Peace calls global boycott of U.S.

By Steve Gillis

The Black Alliance for Peace (BAP) — a U.S.-based group that "seeks to recapture and redevelop the historic antiwar, anti-imperialist and pro-peace positions of the radical Black movement" — has issued a clarion call to the world's people to "Boycott the World Cup! Boycott the U.S.!"

BAP issued the global boycott call on Jan. 24, the day U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents publicly executed nurse Alex Pretti in front of a Minneapolis doughnut shop in a premeditated escalation of the ongoing, violent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) occupation of that city and many others. (blackallianceforpeace.com)

"U.S. officials have chosen to operate outside the bounds of law and basic morality," declares the BAP call, "from supporting Israel's genocide in Gaza and illegal settlement expansion, to launching a direct military strike on Venezuela that kidnapped President Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores, his wife, to escalating repression against migrants and racialized communities inside the U.S. that has led to murder. These are not isolated policies, but interconnected expressions of an empire that relies on illegal violence abroad and domestically to enforce dominance.

"Yesterday [Jan. 23] was one of the largest labor mobilizations in recent U.S. history with tens of thousands of Minnesotans taking to the street to end the tyrannical violence of ICE and its anti-immigrant operations. One day later, ICE agents in Minnesota have murdered another person — this time a 37-year-old man.

"The federal government is systematically violating the most fundamental of human rights: the right to life. While federal officials run cover for their crimes, state and local officials do nothing but stand by, make statements but take no action. We must demand that these democratically elected officials act immediately to defend their constituents and combat all attempts to clean the image of this neo-fascist state.

"This includes the World Cup, which should not be used to launder state violence or normalize genocide and international gangsterism. … Organizations and people of conscience must demand that FIFA [Fédération Internationale de Football Association] move the games out of the U.S. and take a stand for people-centered human rights rather than empire, repression and impunity.

"Sign the petition demanding that FIFA and the IOC [International Olympic Committee] ban the U.S. and Israel from hosting or participating in international sporting events."

Boycott, divest, sanction the U.S. terror state!

BAP's petition points out that FIFA and the IOC have historically denied participation to rogue nations that violate its stated value of human rights from global sporting events — such as banning fascist Germany and Japan during World War II and South Africa during its apartheid era.

The petition also stresses: "The U.S. has become dangerous for members of the global community, and specifically for non-white/non-European people. The world is witnessing massive violations of human rights and the Constitution of the United States as masked agents using unmarked vehicles raid work places, homes and places of public assembly to incarcerate and disappear Black, Brown and Indigenous people and, in too many cases, denying them legal representation and basic information as to their whereabouts and well-being to their families and attorneys."

Joining and working to enforce BAP's call to "Boycott the U.S." is an immediate, concrete way that all justice-loving people in the U.S. can fight to defeat the Trump administration's fascist attacks on immigrant communities and their allies and be in solidarity with the world's peoples, who are facing off against the U.S. imperialist war machine in Palestine, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Somalia, Greenland and everywhere. Adding the U.S. to the Palestinians' longstanding, global Boycott, Divest, Sanctions (BDS) movement targeting the U.S. colony of Israel is a call whose time has come.

THE BLACK ALLIANCE FOR PEACE
THE U.S. IS A DANGEROUS PLACE WITH
ESCALATING ICE AND MILITARIZED VIOLENCE.
BOYCOTT THE WORLD CUP
BOYCOTT THE U.S.
DEMAND FIFA MOVE THE GAMES FROM THE U.S.
FIFA IS A COLLABORATOR IN WAR CRIMES & GENOCIDE
Sign the petition to demand that FIFA & IOC ban the U.S. & Israel from hosting or participating in International Sporting Events!
BIT.LY/BANFIFA

Broadening the sports boycott from inside the belly of the beast into a universal call to BDS all U.S. economic, cultural and political activity can contribute to putting a final end to the capitalists' police state terror that U.S. imperialism is inflicting daily, at home and abroad, in its desperation and decline.

To join the "BDS the U.S." campaign, start by spreading BAP's petition at bit.ly/BANFIFA. ❐

ICE fuels massive rise in U.S. carceral system

By Betsey Piette

With an average of over 2 million people imprisoned at any time, the United States has notoriously had the highest rate of incarceration of any country in the world over a long period. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, around $182 billion is spent annually to cage around 1% of the U.S. population 18 and older.

Now, fueled by racism and corporate greed, the rapid expansion of detentions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in 2025 has led to a surge in detainees, 40% of whom are people with no criminal records.

According to ICE data, some 69,000 people were in ICE detention on Jan. 7, 2026, up from 38,000 in early January 2025, before Donald Trump took office. (USA Today, Jan. 14)

In January 2025 there were 107 detention centers holding immigrants. Today that number has nearly doubled to 212 and climbing as Trump threatens to build more. The administration recently proposed buying and converting 23 large warehouses into detention centers that could each hold tens of thousands of people. At some proposed sites, the encaged population would surpass that of nearby local communities.

There is no lack of funds. Trump's "Big Beautiful (bad) Bill" gave ICE an additional $45 billion to build new detention centers through 2029 — a budget 62% larger than the entire federal prison system.

A report by the American Immigration Council estimates that this funding would allow ICE to cage up to 135,000 people at any time — comparable to the U.S. internment of Japanese, German and Italian people during World War II.

Overcrowding at an immigrant detention facility in McAllen, Texas, where children are held along with adults. Feb. 4, 2026.

Prison-industrial complex

Profiting from the incarceration of workers has been a long-standing practice in the U.S. The term "prison-industrial complex" was coined to describe the web of federal and state prisons, local jails plus corporations like Aramark, Smart Communications, Securus Technologies, TextBehind, Wellpath, YesCare and others that are paid billions of dollars to deliver food, mail service and health care to prisoners. In most cases, services are substandard or worse.

When Trump first took office in 2016, the profits of Core Civic and Geo Group, corporations paid to provide beds for immigrants detained by ICE, skyrocketed. Trump made targeting immigrants a key point in his platform during his 2024 campaign. Shortly after taking office in 2025, he hired David Venturella, who had spent over a decade at GEO Group and was paid over $6 million to oversee their immigrant detention operations.

Under Trump's Department of Homeland Security, Venturella oversees the same ICE division responsible for detention contracts that he previously expanded for GEO Group shareholders. (Consortium News, Jan. 27)

Core Civic, one of the largest private prison operators in the United States, has gained significant financial benefits from the increased immigration detention and enforcement policies during the second Trump administration. Following Trump's election, the company's stock price soared by nearly 29%.

According to Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, Core Civic and GEO Group, along with their subsidiaries and executives, donated nearly $2.8 million to Trump's 2024 election campaign and inaugural fund. Just Security reports that these investments are paying off, with revenues already reported as "soaring" under Trump's second term. (Sept. 24, 2025)

With the billions of dollars in federal spending intended to double detention capacity to 100,000 beds, there is no end in sight for these private contractors. To reach this goal, ICE must target immigrants with or without criminal records and kidnap children as well as their parents, as is increasingly the case.

As the brutality of ICE and DHS agents is caught on videos and reports of inhumane and intolerable conditions within detention facilities make the news, there is widespread and growing opposition to Trump's detention agenda.

The kidnapping of 5-year-old Liam Conejo Ramos in Minneapolis and his detention along with his father at Dilley detention center in Texas sparked a rebellion by immigrant children being held at the facility. In 2025, over 37 immigrants died in detention centers due to the lack of adequate health care, inadequate food, the lack of clean water and poor ventilation and heating. There are growing reports of measles spreading through centers like Dilley and others.

These conditions are the result of the capitalist system putting corporate profits ahead of human lives, whether within the already existing U.S. carceral system or the expanding ICE detention centers.We say: Tear down the prison walls and abolish ICE! ❐

Migrants rebel in South Texas detention center

By CG Bartell

A revolt broke out on Jan. 24 at the South Texas Family Residential Detention Center, the largest migrant detention center in the U.S., located in Dilley, Texas, about 70 miles south of San Antonio.

Guards forcibly ordered attorneys to leave the concentration camp while detainees, many of them children, stormed into open areas of the concentration camp chanting "¡Libertad!" (Freedom!) as well as "Let us out!" according to an immigration attorney, Eric Lee, who witnessed the event.

Lee's clients told him the revolt was triggered by concerns over the treatment of Liam Conejo Ramos, a five-year-old taken into custody with his father in Minnesota on Jan. 23 and transferred to the Dilley facility.

The revolt also unfolded against what Lee described as harsh day-to-day conditions inside the concentration camp, which he characterized as "a horrible, horrible place." He alleged that drinking water is "putrid" and often undrinkable and that meals have contained "bugs, dirt and debris."

This combined with the detention of an innocent five-year-old boy has led to the situation boiling over into a full-blown rebellion in solidarity with the people of Minneapolis who are also fighting ICE thugs hired by the Department of Homeland Security to tear families apart.

Due to public outcry, on Jan. 31, a U.S. judge ordered Liam and his father to be released, saying saying: "The case has its genesis in the ill-conceived and incompetently-implemented government pursuit of daily deportation quotas, apparently even if it requires traumatizing children." (The Guardian, Feb. 2)

Source material comes from Texas Public Radio (tpr.org)

Liam Conejo Ramos being detained by ICE in Minneapolis on Jan. 23.

Send letters of solidarity

On Jan. 3, the United States bombed Caracas and kidnapped Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores. They are being held hostage as political prisoners by the U.S. government at MDC (Metropolitan Detention Center) Brooklyn — an imperial prison built to isolate, disappear and intimidate.

Letters cut through that isolation. They assert solidarity, visibility and collective power. They are concrete acts of prisoner solidarity and resistance to imperialism, which relies on silence. Letters refuse that silence. Write to President Maduro and Cilia Flores at the addresses listed on page 5 and read carefully the rules for sending prison mail.

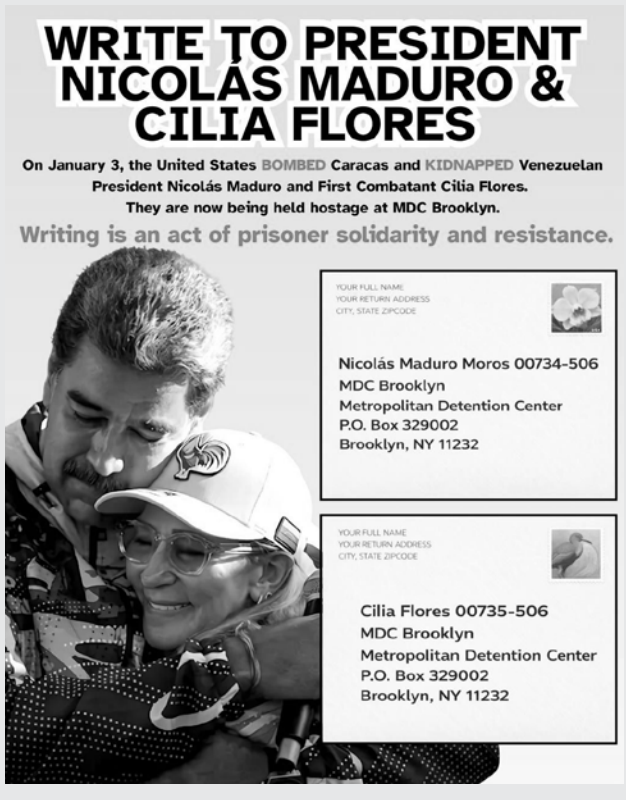
Write today. But don't stop there.

Organize your own letter-writing event — with friends, neighbors, students, coworkers or your organization. Turn solidarity into mass action.

Need help hosting a letter-writing session or getting materials together? Reach out to us at Workers World or to @nycantirepressiongroup on Instagram — we'll support you.

Free Nicolás Maduro! Free Cilia Flores!
End U.S. Sanctions and War on Venezuela!
Free All Political Prisoners!

Follow @FreePresidentMaduro on Instagram for updates and next steps.


WRITE TO PRESIDENT NICOLÁS MADURO & CILIA FLORES
On January 3, the United States BOMBED Caracas and KIDNAPPED Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores.
They are now being held hostage at MDC Brooklyn.
Writing is an act of prisoner solidarity and resistance.
YOUR FULL NAME
YOUR RETURN ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIPCODE
Nicolás Maduro Moros 00734-506
MDC Brooklyn
Metropolitan Detention Center
P.O. Box 329002
Brooklyn, NY 11232
YOUR FULL NAME
YOUR RETURN ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIPCODE
Cilia Flores 00735-506
MDC Brooklyn
Metropolitan Detention Center
P.O. Box 329002
Brooklyn, NY 11232

After death in custody, Parady La's family demands justice

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

At least three people protesting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) occupations were murdered in 2026 —Keith Porter Jr., Alex Pretti and Renee Nicole Good. However, according to The Guardian on Jan. 28, another 38 people have died while in ICE custody since January 2025. Each one had a life, a family and a work history.

Parady La was one of them. The 46-year-old Cambodian father and longtime Philadelphia-area resident, brought to the U.S. by his parents at 2 years old, died at the Federal Detention Center in Philadelphia on Jan. 9 after being detained by ICE.

On Feb. 5, several family members spoke at a press conference organized by the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Community Bail Fund, VietLead and Asian Americans United outside the facility where La was detained. His family raised significant questions regarding the circumstances leading to his death and pushed back against government officials' claims that La was a "criminal illegal alien."

La's spouse, Meghan Morgan, stated: "I have known Parady for 24 years. Parady was greatly loved, and we all miss him very very much. Parady was a family man. Parady was not perfect, and he struggled with addiction, but he still always showed up for his family. To us he was a provider, a caregiver and our protector."

Family and friends holding signs outside Philadelphia prison where he was held. Feb. 5, 2026. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Jazmine La, his daughter, recounted: "When I think of my dad and the time we spent together, the word that comes to mind is adventurous. We were always on the go when I was younger. He was always looking out for me, making sure I was taken care of all while battling his addiction. I'm grieving the loss of my dad, but I am also angry and enraged at the thought of my father suffering in a cell while the staff actively ignored his distress."

La's niece, Lisa, stated: "He was my babysitter, my guide and the first person I ran to for support. He showed love through his actions, making us feel seen, safe and cared for. Parady also carried pain. He tried — many trips to rehabilitation centers — because he wanted to get better. He deserved support, compassion and care. Instead, he was punished and neglected by a system that reduced him to nothing more than the dehumanizing label of 'criminal illegal alien.'"

At the press conference, ACLU of Pennsylvania announced their filing of a Freedom of Information Act request on behalf of La's family. Its attorneys Vanessa Stine, Keith Armstrong and Victoria Peña-Parr are asking for the release of "any and all" records from ICE and the Federal Bureau of Prisons, including La's detention file, medical care records, autopsy report, video footage and photos, calls, emails and witness statements to help uncover the truth about La's treatment in ICE custody.

Peña-Parr said, "We are also seeking the policies and procedures to understand why facility staff would give Narcan to a person who is going through withdrawal when that is not the medical standard." Narcan is used for a person reacting to a drug overdose, not addiction withdrawal.

Nancy Nyugen, the executive director of VietLead, summarized the family's demands: "Financial remuneration for the family's utterly preventable loss; an end to in-custody ICE deaths; to restore Parady's name and hold ICE accountable for his death; and finally, what we know needs to happen is for all of the detention centers to be shut down for good. Let's invest in our communities, not cages." □

Mumia: Trump's 'Stickup – your oil or else'

On Feb. 3 — at a demonstration outside the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, New York, marking one month since President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores were kidnapped and held hostage by the U.S. — protesters received a live call-in from political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Mumia cut through the propaganda and named this for what it is — an act of imperial robbery, not law. From one political prisoner to a people under siege, this was a call for internationalist solidarity to defend the Bolivarian Revolution.

From the left: Cilia Flores, Mumia Abu-Jamal and President Nicolás Maduro

Hey Venezuela, this is a stickup! It is time for all of us to say what we see, right before us. When an empire attacks a poor workers' state and demands the lion's share of its richest raw material, oil, why is this not a stickup?

Remember that old corny line from the movies: "Your money or your life." Anybody old enough to remember that? It's "give me your oil or else," or even worse. Perhaps, "This oil is ours and we want most of it." Really? Honestly?

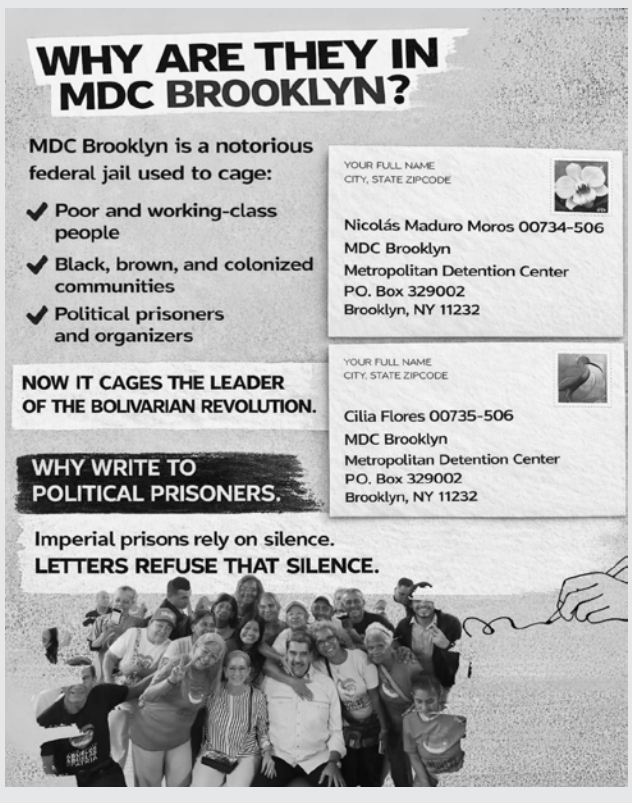
Doesn't that sound just like a straight up stickup? A robbery? That's right, and as if that were not enough, the seizure of Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores was and is a kidnapping.

Think of this okay? When have you heard of U.S. presidents taken prisoner? Who has waged unfair and unjust wars on false and specious pretext and claims? We need think no further than the hellish wars in Iraq and in Afghanistan, where tens of thousands of people died under grotesque U.S. bombing campaigns.

Remember "weapons of mass destruction?" Who got busted for that disaster? Maduro and Flores are not subject to U.S. law. They should be returned home, period. And the natural resources of Venezuela should remain in the hands of the people of Venezuela. Certainly not politicians, not the U.S. So let's make it happen.

— Love, not Phear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Free Mumia!
Free Nicolás Maduro! Free Cilia Flores!
Free them all!


WHY ARE THEY IN MDC BROOKLYN?
MDC Brooklyn is a notorious federal jail used to cage:
Poor and working-class people
Black, brown, and colonized communities
Political prisoners and organizers
NOW IT CAGES THE LEADER OF THE BOLIVARIAN REVOLUTION.
WHY WRITE TO POLITICAL PRISONERS.
Imperial prisons rely on silence.
LETTERS REFUSE THAT SILENCE.
YOUR FULL NAME
CITY, STATE ZIPCODE
Nicolás Maduro Moros 00734-506
MDC Brooklyn
Metropolitan Detention Center
P.O. Box 329002
Brooklyn, NY 11232
YOUR FULL NAME
CITY, STATE ZIPCODE
Cilia Flores 00735-506
MDC Brooklyn
Metropolitan Detention Center
P.O. Box 329002
Brooklyn, NY 11232

WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT
You can write about:
Solidarity with Venezuela
Shared struggles against sanctions and prisons
Your community and daily life
Culture, history, books, music
Hope, endurance, resistance
You are not appealing to the prison.
You are affirming life under siege.
WRITE WITH DISCIPLINE
Be clear, human, and supportive
Avoid content that enables censorship
Don't self-erase — be disciplined, not neutral
The goal is:
Connection
Visibility
Collective resistance

READ CAREFULLY
PRISON MAIL RULES
IMPERIAL PRISONS CENSOR AGGRESSIVELY.
BLUE OR BLACK INK ONLY
LINED PAPER ONLY
INCLUDE A RETURN ADDRESS
ALL MAIL IS OPENED AND INSPECTED
NO DRAWINGS OR SYMBOLS
NO STICKERS, TAPE, OR GLUE
NO SCENTED PAPER
NO EXTRA ENCLOSURES
BE DISCIPLINED SO YOUR LETTER GETS THROUGH.

Resistance grows from coast

Protect Trans Futures demands 'Trans Health Care Shield'

By Workers World Boston Bureau

Hundreds of trans people and their allies gathered at the Brewer Fountain on Boston Common and marched to the Massachusetts State House on Feb. 7 during a bitterly cold snowstorm. They were responding to Protect Trans Futures' (PTF) call to fight the Trump administration's bigoted attacks on their community's health care. One special target was a local health care provider's capitulation to Trump's extortionate policies.

PTF's demands — which they termed the "Trans Health Care Shield" — would fund public clinics independent of federal funding threats, mandate anti-discrimination in health care and protect private data from political and commercial exploitation.

The youthful PTF organizers, joined by veterans of ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, founded in 1987), coalesced into action out of outrage early 2025 when Boston's Fenway Health voluntarily announced restrictive new policies conforming to Trump's threat to cut off federal funding for institutions providing gender-affirming health care to people under 19 years old.

Fenway Community Health Center was formed in 1971 in a basement by students and community activists, including David Scondras, elected as Boston's first openly gay city councilor in 1984. They pledged to provide health care as a right, not a privilege or for profit.

Fenway Health became known for specializing in LGBTQIA2S+ health care. However, in recent years, it succumbed to a corporate model, complete with layoffs as budget cuts, CEO pay and sexual harassment scandals and insensitivity to trans patients and workers left it susceptible to fascist extortion.

Speakers demanded that Massachusetts state and local politicians end their hand-wringing and immediately address the life-threatening medical crises caused by federal funding cuts and fund establishing independent clinics that will embrace the LGBTQIA2S+ community and gender-affirming health care as a right. This demand goes beyond even New York City's City Council groundbreaking "Protect Trans Futures Plan" of April 2025, which protects rights but does little to replace cut federal funding.

As Elijah Oyenuga put it: "What has been the most painful is not the choice [Fenway Health] made in an untenable position but that in the eyes of the transgender community they did not fight! They collapsed under the weight of capital … For many of us this felt like a betrayal. They let our youth be sacrificed on the altar of capital, of fear and the health of our queer siblings. …

"The goal of this [Trump] administration is to sow division in our hearts and fracture our community. We need to stand firmly and root ourselves in solidarity now more than ever. I cannot tell anyone how to survive fascism, but without a doubt our enemy is not just this tyrannical administration."

WW PHOTO: MAIREAD SKEHAN GILLIS

Protect Trans Futures on Boston Common in front of Massachusetts State House, Feb. 7, 2026.

In addition, speakers denounced the violent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and kidnappings terrorizing people in cities across the country, including Boston. They declared their solidarity with the Palestinian, Sudanese and Congolese people facing genocide and called for money for housing and health care for all, not war.

"¡Seguimos Aqui! We are still here!"

The march started into the Downtown Crossing shopping district. Protest marching band BABAM (Boston Area Brigade of Activist Musicians) led a jubilant cadence for chants set to well-known hymns and protest songs as shoppers recorded from the shelter of warm storefronts. The march continued to Government Center and circled back to the State House.

Many chants and signs called for Fenway Health and politicians to take executive action to protect trans health care, including "Trans health care is our right! That is why we have to fight!" A crowd favorite in the shopping district was "Union power loud and clear! Trans workers belong here!" There were also messages pushing back against ICE with signs reading "I like my ICE crushed" and "Queer as in Fuck ICE." "¡Seguimos Aqui! We are still here!" drew fists of support from onlookers.

At the State House, PTF organizer Teddy Walker delivered a galvanizing speech to close out the demonstration. He described the progress PTF has made — from having just five people at their first demonstration outside Fenway Health to 20 at the next, then 200, to nearly 500 today. He inspired the crowd with a sense of collective power.

Seth Ward contributed the reporting from the march and State House to this article.

Seattle students walk out against ICE

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Thousands of students from 17 Seattle high schools walked out on Feb. 5 and marched to City Hall. The youth, angered by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids both locally and countrywide, took over City Hall Plaza and the streets around it and rallied. They then marched on the Space Needle and the federal building.

The students demanded that the city provide protections from the brutality and all-around terror of the ICE police, who have continually invaded the community. They marched in solidarity with murdered activists Renee Good and Alex Pretti and the far-reaching Minneapolis general strike. One student speaker spoke out against the detainment by ICE of a student from Franklin High School just the day before.

The ICE invasion of the schools and immigrant communities goes hand in hand with the U.S.-sponsored Israeli invasion and occupation of Gaza and the U.S. attacks and siege of Venezuela. The U.S. war at home grows out of its wars abroad.

The students' walkout and march were sponsored by the Seattle Student Union, ICE Out of Schools and Puget Sound Revolutionary Youth. ☐

PHOTO: MACEY WURM, WEST SEATTLE BLOG

Brown Berets say no ICE in Aztlan

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

With signs, drums and bull horns, the Brown Berets of Southeast Texas took part in a national day of action on Feb. 7 demanding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Out of Aztlan. Aztlan is a term used by Chicano activists for the land in the Southwest part of the U.S. that was stolen from Mexico.

Gathering at Irvington Park in the barrio of Houston's Northside, they began with a rally with speakers talking about ICE and the long history of terrorist organizations in the U.S. since Europeans began their genocide of the Indigenous peoples here.

WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Brown Berets demand ICE out of Aztlan at rally in Houston, Feb. 7, 2026.

From the slave patrols to the Ku Klux Klan to the police, the U.S. has a history of racist oppression. Historian Jesus Medel spoke of a tale told by Chicano activist Reies López Tijerina about an elephant and a flea who were quarreling and how the flea won, because they were consistent in attacking the elephant. Medel told the crowd that those fighting ICE had to attack as often and as seriously as the little flea.

Leaving the park, the activists marched down a main boulevard chanting and drawing people out of restaurants and businesses who cheered and raised fists in support.

At Moody Park, which the Berets call Chicano Park, they held another rally below a famous 16-foot statue named Vaquero. It honors the vaqueros — Mexican cowboys — who established the ranching industry in the Southwest. Speakers included activist Janie Torres whose brother, Joe Campos Torres, was arrested, taken to "the hole" and beaten and thrown into Buffalo Bayou in 1977. His body was found three days later, and the cops got off with a $1.00 fine.

Also speaking were representatives of the autonomous Brown Berets from San Antonio who condemned the capitalist state for its history of abuse of the Chicano community.

A speaker for the Xinachtli Freedom Campaign told the history of this Chicano political prisoner and the medical and elder abuse he is now facing. The crowd was invited to a Valentine's Day event called Love is in the Air that will feature Valentine's Day portraits, open mic poetry and letter writing to support Texas political prisoners.

The most moving talk was just a few sentences from a very shy 11-year-old, fifth grade girl who said it made her so sad that children were being taken away from their families.

These activists then marched back to their starting point, again gathering much support from everyone who saw them. ☐

to coast: NO ICE, NO Trump!

Activists at Target: 'ICE out now!'

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Shoppers at the Mifflin Street Target store in South Philadelphia witnessed a surprise protest on Feb. 5 when over 100 activists gathered near the registers and started chanting "ICE out of Target now!"

After chanting, singing and speaking for an hour, over half of the demonstrators left when threatened with arrest. Police zip-tied the hands of the remaining 40 protesters who refused to leave. One by one, cops led them outside, where the crowd greeted them with cheers and chants, before cops put them in waiting police vehicles.

Protest over ICE shooting of Renee Good, Denver, Jan. 17, 2026. PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

No ICE Philly organized picketing at a number of Target stores in the few weeks prior. The protests were a response to calls from Target workers and activists in Minnesota calling for company officials to publicly oppose Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) terror activities in Minnesota and deny ICE agents access to Target stores and parking lots.

Target, which is headquartered in Minneapolis, had a net revenue of over $106.57 billion in 2025. Target gave $1 million to President Trump's Inaugural Committee. Federal agents have used Target stores for staging, sometimes seizing migrant workers inside the stores. Community members accuse the company of cooperating with the ferocious federal crackdown in Minnesota and other states.

Target's CEO Michael Fiddelke is an executive board member of the National Retail Federation, which lobbied on behalf of Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill," which "allocated more than $170 billion over four years to deport one million immigrants annually." (prospect.org, Feb. 4)

After Target rolled back Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives to fall in line with Trump's policies, many people were already boycotting the store. According to website Stock Analysis, Target's revenue has declined 1.75% in the last 12 months.

Anti-DEI and now ICE: two reasons to put a bull's-eye on Target. ☐

No deportations of Haitian migrant workers!

By Susan Sherrell and Dave Welsh
San Francisco

On Feb. 2, 100 people rallied in front of the San Francisco Immigration Court at 100 Montgomery St. to protest the planned deportation of up to 340,000 Haitians. Their Temporary Protected Status (TPS) — designed to protect people from dangerous conditions if they return to their home countries — was due to expire on Feb. 3. Fortunately, a federal court issued a last-minute stay in implementing the order, at least for now.

Pierre Labossiere, co-founder of the Haiti Action Committee (HAC), explained that "In Haiti it's hell right now," ever since the 2004 U.S.-sponsored coup d'etat and kidnapping of the overwhelmingly elected President Jean Bertrand Aristide. He said,"To deport these migrants and refugees back to Haiti now would be a crime."

Judith Mirkinson, from the National Lawyers Guild and HAC, said: "We are a country built by immigrants and refugees. The U.S. creates conditions that produce migrants from countries like Haiti. It was a good sign when thousands of students walked out of American schools on January 31 — not just against ICE but also against U.S. imperialism. You can't go into a country and say, 'Your resources are mine now.' But this is what the U.S. is blatantly doing in Venezuela and threatening in Greenland and Canada."

Mirkinson called attention to the recent violent ICE raids in Minneapolis, Chicago, and Portland, saying, "How dare they bring the Gestapo into our streets!"

Palestinian activist Monadel Herzallah pointed out the connection between U.S. aid to Israel and the fact that ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents in this country are training with the Israeli military in techniques of intimidation.

Cuba solidarity worker Vicki Legion denounced U.S. sanctions on countries exporting oil to Cuba, for example, by trying to shut off oil shipments to Cuba from Mexico. The resulting power outages in Cuba mean that many children's medicines cannot be refrigerated.

Demonstration for Haitian migrants, San Francisco, Feb. 2, 2026. PHOTO: SUSAN SHERRELL

HAC veteran Robert Roth said that after the 2010 earthquake, many Haitian migrants came to the U.S. escaping the proliferation of private death squads. So it is understandable that these Haitians don't want to be deported back into that life-threatening situation. ☐

Ohio demonstrations for Haitian migrants

'Defend and expand protected status!'

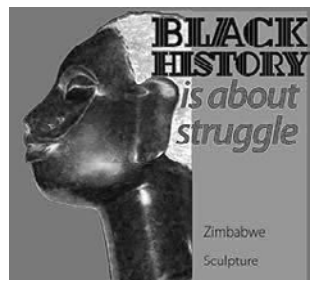
Hundreds of people demonstrated in Cleveland on Feb. 7 against threats to end Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian immigrants previously protected from deportation.

This issue impacts 15,000 Haitians living in Springfield, Ohio, and another 30,000 in Central Ohio who are threatened with deportation after President Donald Trump announced plans to end TPS for Haitians on Feb. 3. While a federal judge ruled that this action was illegal, it is possible that a higher court will overturn the judge's decision.

Simultaneous demonstrations were held in Akron, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton and Toledo. They were initiated by the Party for Socialism and Liberation and supported by a number of organizations. Chants included a takeoff on "OH-IO," a popular chant at college and professional sports events: "OH-ICE out!"

— Report and photo by Martha Grevatt

Du Bois' 'Black Reconstruction': A call for labor unity



By LeiLani Dowell

Read the full version of this article at workers.org/2026/01/90554/

W.E.B. Du Bois' "Black Reconstruction in America: An Essay Toward a History of the Part Which Black Folk Played in the Attempt to Reconstruct Democracy in America, 1860-1880" is part of the effort that Black History Month engages in — in the attempt to rectify the erasure and maligning of the lives and struggle of enslaved, formerly enslaved and immigrant Black people in the U.S. from the very founding of this country on stolen land.

Du Bois became a professor of history, sociology and economics at Atlanta University in 1897. In 1931, he began the research and writing of "Black Reconstruction," which was published in 1935.

Du Bois was correcting the historical record. Almost all histories produced at that time either negated the Black role in the Civil War and Reconstruction or defended the overthrow of Reconstruction as the fault of Black people.

Du Bois' book is also a plea for labor unity in the midst of the 1930's Great Depression. He uses a specifically Marxist analysis to serve as an admonition. He writes: "The rebuilding, whether it comes now or a century later, will and must go back to the basic principles of Reconstruction ... Land, Light and Leading for slaves black, brown, yellow and white, under a dictatorship of the proletariat."

Black workers, poor whites, planters

Du Bois begins his book with a chapter entitled "The Black Worker" to let the reader know the importance of Black labor to the developing system of capitalism on a global scale.

He writes: "Cotton grew so swiftly that ... with this increase, walked economic revolution in a dozen different lines. ... Black labor became the foundation stone not only of the Southern social structure, but of Northern manufacture and commerce, of the English factory system, of European commerce, of buying and selling on a worldwide scale; new cities were built on the results of black labor."

But if Black labor was foundational to the system, it is also foundational to the resistance as well. Du Bois states that "of all human development, ancient and modern, not the least singular and significant is the philosophy of life and action which slavery bred in the souls of black folk."

Next, Du Bois discusses the poor white of the South, whom he says was used as a "special police force" to create "an armed and commissioned camp to keep Negroes in slavery and to kill the black rebel." How and why were poor whites able to be used this way?

Du Bois notes that "the new labor that came to the United States ... was not willing, after it reached America, to regard itself as a permanent laboring class. ... The more energetic and thrifty among the immigrants caught the prevalent [U.S.] American idea that here labor could become emancipated from the necessity of continuous toil and that an increasing proportion could join the class of exploiters."

It's what Du Bois calls the "American" assumption and what we might think of in today's terms as the "American Dream." In pursuit of the "American Dream," these poor white workers in the South allied with the planter in the hopes of ultimately becoming one.

In contrast, Du Bois notes that "the black worker was the ultimate exploited ... [they] had neither wish nor power to escape from the labor status, in order to directly exploit other laborers, or indirectly, by alliance with capital, to share in their exploitation."

These divisions resulted in, according to Du Bois, two labor movements — one seeking the abolition of slavery, the other focused on bettering the condition of white workers. And each, Du Bois notes, either ignored or was unsympathetic to the other.

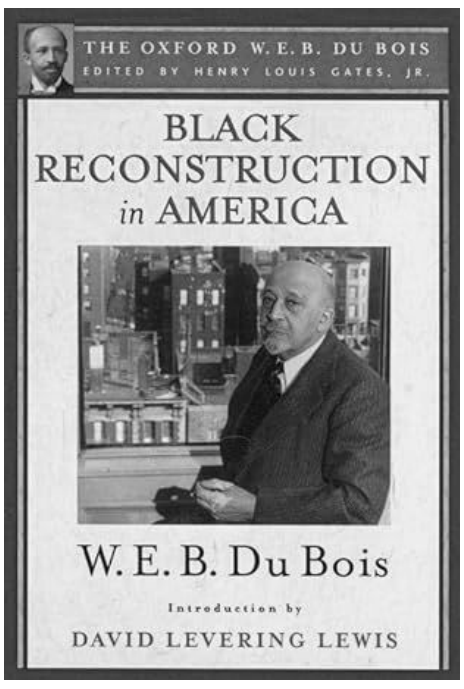
The third of the cast of characters in the South is the planter. For the planter, slavery represented not just profits but political power via the "three-fifths" compromise, which was "used not only to degrade Negroes in theory, but in practice to disenfranchise the white South."

Planters were desperately holding on to an outdated mode of production. Du Bois says that "slavery was the economic lag of the 16th century carried over into the 19th century and bringing by contrast and by friction moral lapses and political differences."

Cotton, Civil War, general strike

This all came to a head in 1860 when the cotton crop reached an all-time high in production. A year previous, John Brown had led the raid at Harpers Ferry, and the threat of further social upheaval coupled with the greed of the planters forced a crisis. Beginning with South Carolina, Southern states began seceding. The Civil War had begun.

Du Bois quotes Frederick Douglass, who said the war was begun "in the interests of slavery on both sides. The South was fighting to take slavery out of the Union, and the North fighting to keep it in the Union; the South fighting to get it beyond the limits of the United States Constitution, and the North fighting for the old guarantees — both despising the Negro, both insulting the Negro."



Today, Abraham Lincoln is celebrated as the president who "freed the slaves." But Lincoln was, in the beginning, intent on making clear that the war was not one of liberation for the millions of enslaved people. Lincoln even ordered Union troops to return enslaved people back to their "owners." His motivation for war was to support the burgeoning Northern industrial system of capitalism, which needed a large geographical market and did not want to compete with seceded Southern states for international markets.

But in what Du Bois calls "a general strike," droves of enslaved Black people began leaving the plantations and arriving at the Union encampments. The South, it was believed, had the advantage in the war, because its white laborers were freed up to fight, since enslaved labor would supply food and supplies to the troops.

Enslaved people, however, made excellent spies and saboteurs for the Union side. And once they had turned the war into a war of liberation, they would fight until the very end, even while enduring the racism and discrimination of the Northern troops.

It wasn't until the enslaved masses forced upon Lincoln the consciousness that this was, in fact, a war against slavery, and that, in fact, it would not be won by the Union unless the Union emancipated them, that Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

And so the period of Reconstruction begins, and Du Bois once again highlights the centrality of Black struggle. In an article that was the precursor to "Black Reconstruction," entitled "Reconstruction and Its Benefits," Du Bois writes: "How to train and treat these ex-slaves easily became a central problem of Reconstruction. ... Three agencies undertook the solution of this problem ... : (a) the Negro church, (b) the Negro school, and (c) the Freedmen's Bureau."

Here, Du Bois highlights Black leadership and organization. A whole chapter in "Black Reconstruction" is dedicated to the founding of public schools in the South, which he attributes directly to the desire of Black people to learn and develop intellectually. But in addition, he notes the importance of the federal Freedman's Bureau, which he calls "an attempt to establish a government guardianship over the Negroes and insure their economic and civil rights."

Its eventual rejection, and the eventual overthrow of Reconstruction as a whole, was, as Du Bois states, "chiefly because the new industry, the money-making financiers and organizers of a vast economic empire, hesitated at a government guardianship of labor and control of industry on a scale that might embarrass future freedom of exploitation." Northern and Southern capital shook hands, and the federal government pulled its troops out of the South, leaving Black people defenseless, particularly in the face of Ku Klux Klan extra-legal terror and violence.

The first Trump era

What does "Black Reconstruction" mean in the Trump era? Certainly the connection between the overthrow of Reconstruction and the need for the Black Lives Matter movement to challenge the continued legal and extralegal murders of Black people is obvious.

Perhaps the "general strike" is one of the greatest lessons we can take. It is clear that voting the Lincoln/ Johnson ticket did not result in the end of slavery. What ended it was the mass of enslaved people taking to the streets and withholding their labor.

What about the retreat of the Northern army? And in some ways, we can see this election as the beginning of a retreat of the government on the issue of democratic rights. It's not overblown to say that anything is up for grabs right now, unless we resist.

Rather than dismissing Trump and his crew as "evil," "wrong," or "stupid," Du Bois's careful delineation of the motives of both sides of capital in the Reconstruction struggle encourages us to think about what this political moment says about the dead-end crisis of capitalism as a whole. Like then, the politicians of the two-party system, with different tactics, have one goal in mind — the preservation of the system of capitalism.

There is also, of course, a lesson about working-class unity. Du Bois notes that it was precisely the failure of Black-white unity that led to the overthrow of Reconstruction. Class unity "failed to work," according to Du Bois, "because the theory of race was supplemented by a carefully planned and slowly evolved method, which drove ... a wedge between the black and white workers."

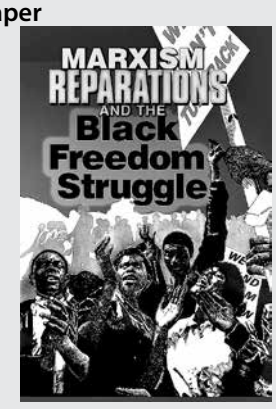
Du Bois recognized that working-class unity could have resulted in a real dictatorship of labor in the U.S., that there was serious revolutionary potential that was thwarted at the time by the machinations of the Southern planters and the Northern industrialists.

We must continue struggling for unity, and realize that the capitalist ruling class inculcates and promotes the racism of whites to foment divisions that are custom-made to preserve capitalism and imperialism. And we must organize ourselves for the general strikes of the future.

We must continue the struggle for Black liberation and for workers' liberation that was waged by Black folk and their collaborators during the Civil War and Reconstruction. ☐

Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper
Edited by Monica Moorehead



COVER GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON

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What Black History Month means to Black youth

COMMENTARY

By Benny Schaft

A "black revolution is more powerful than two atomic bombs."
– Malcolm X, "Ballot or the Bullet" speech, April 3, 1964

Why is Black History Month significant to us as Black youth? It is the only time of the year when, for one month, we can truly learn about our history and what it means for our liberation today.

February 2026 marks the centennial of the founding of Black History Month by Black historian Carter G. Woodson.

Depiction of Nat Turner

Nowadays, the U.S. white supremacist structure has made it clear that it wants to erase, distort and outright lie about our history. This is the cornerstone of the capitalist education system spoon-fed to us from the time we are very young until the time we graduate from these institutions. It is forced down our throats that the long struggle for liberation is not only not significant but downright blasphemous to commemorate and celebrate.

With this, let us talk about one of the biggest tools used in the United States: propaganda and cover-ups. These are especially used to degrade and diminish the minds of Black youth to learn our history and to want to learn more. The teaching of our history will encourage Black youth to examine deeper the material conditions that the same ruling class has placed on them and to inspire them to resist these same conditions.

An example of this racist propaganda is how a white supremacist like President Andrew Jackson is praised, while a heroic Black abolitionist like Nat Turner is demonized in the bourgeois history books. This irony is something every single one of us as Black youth has experienced. We are forced to swallow how then General Jackson was such a great revolutionary for his stance at the Battle of New Orleans of 1815 against the British but advocated for the genocide of Indigenous nations defending their land while ordering the U.S. Calvary to steal it.

But on the flip side, it is drummed into the heads of Black youth that the rebellion Nat Turner led against the slavocracy in Southampton County, Virginia, was completely wrong and that Jackson and the U.S. government were justified in implementing stronger pro-slavery laws following the rebellion of Turner and other enslaved abolitionists seeking liberation.

This is further put on display with the capitalist class and the Trump administration's efforts to erase any monuments concerning Black history, especially the idea of Black liberation relating to slavery, civil rights or Jim Crow. This erasure is meant to further stop the efforts of Black youth from becoming revolutionized. The capitalist class and the Trump administration are doubling down to make sure that this doesn't happen, but they are doomed to fail.

Co-optation of our heroes

The billionaire bosses know that Black History Month has always played a pivotal role in radicalizing us as youth and setting us on the path of becoming revolutionaries. This is why the United States education system is historically white supremacist and anti-Black. It is why we do not learn about important figures such as Claudia Jones, Paul Robeson, Lucy Parsons, Kwame Ture, George Jackson or Louise Thompson Patterson. And those who we do hear about have their legacies either whitewashed or co-opted.

The most infamous case of this co-option is with Martin Luther King Jr., who the ruling class has made it their mission, especially in the institutions of education, to promote only as a civil rights icon but downplay the fact that before his assassination, Dr. King criticized the war in Vietnam as being "morally wrong." This led to him calling the United States the world's biggest purveyor of violence. He made this declaration in his "Beyond Vietnam" address on April 4, 1967, at Riverside Church.

Claudia Jones

On a personal note, like many others I have experienced firsthand having to learn on my own about figures such as Imam Jamil Al-Amin (aka H. Rap Brown) and President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana.

To repeat, Black History Month is so vital not only to Black people in general, but especially for Black youth to understand the role Black people have played in the revolutionary class struggle for liberation here and throughout the Global South, as well as to inspire them to actively join the ongoing class struggle today.

The writer is 20 years old.

Trump can't erase Black history

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Despite broad public opposition, on Jan. 22, National Park Service (NPS) workers carried out orders from President Donald Trump to remove display panels about the history of enslavement in the U.S. at the historic President's House display in Philadelphia. Trump's attempts to deny Black history are being challenged by demonstrations, mass Zoom calls and an immediate response from Avenging the Ancestors Coalition (ATAC), the Black-led group responsible for the display's creation.

At a press conference on Jan. 28, Michael Coard, leader of ATAC, stated: "If you are Black in America, you know about slavery. You're enraged about police brutality and mass incarceration. Race is everything in America. Trump can issue his anti-Black executive orders, but he can't erase history."

Coard pledged that ATAC will not concede regarding the exhibit's location or its content. "We are demanding: Save the site, enhance the site and replicate it across this country."

WW PHOTO: BETSEY PIETTE

President's House panel depicts George Washington signing the infamous 1793 Fugitive Slave Act. Posse of white men with clubs and guns in the background are shooting at four Black men escaping from enslavement.

A City of Philadelphia lawsuit against the federal government's actions was heard by Judge Cynthia Rufe, representing the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, on Jan. 30. The suit notes that because the memorial bears the names of both the NPS and the City of Philadelphia, the city must be involved in any changes to the site.

On Feb. 2, Rufe inspected the panels, currently stored by the NPS in a facility adjacent to the National Constitution Center. Following the inspection, she issued an order preventing further removals or changes to the President's House and instructed the city to file a new injunction to clarify what it is seeking. (WHYY, Feb. 3)

'The Dirty Business of Slavery'

The panels, under the general theme "The Dirty Business of Slavery," were first installed at the site of the President's House that marks the location where the first U.S. president, George Washington, lived during most of his two terms of office. He held nine Africans in bondage in Philadelphia, despite prohibitions against enslavement in Pennsylvania.

The graves of some of those enslaved were uncovered in 2002 during the relocation of the Liberty Bell. For eight years, ATAC held recurring meetings and demonstrations demanding that Independence National Historical Park agree to the creation of a prominent Slavery Memorial to highlight the President's House project. The President's House Site opened in 2010, funded by city and federal money. Ownership was transferred to the NPS in 2015.

The panels tell the stories of the nine enslaved people: Austin and Paris — horsemen and stablehands; Hercules — the chief cook; Christopher Sheels — Washington's personal attendant; Richmond — Hercules' son and kitchen worker; Giles — a driver and stablehand; Ona Marie Judge — Martha Washington's personal maid; Moll — nursemaid to the Washington's grandchildren; and Joe Richardson — a stablehand.

The display highlights Washington's signing of the infamous 1793 Fugitive Slave Act that put those who escaped enslavement at risk of recapture for the rest of their lives. Artwork displayed Washington's hand holding a quill signing the act, with a posse of white men with clubs and guns in the background shooting at four Black men escaping from enslavement.

The exhibit focused on the contradictory coexistence of liberty (for whites) and enslavement for Africans. One panel called "Life Under Slavery" illustrated the deprivation of food, clothing and shelter, whippings, beatings, torture and rapes endured by enslaved people.

The President's House was designated a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site by a 1998 act of Congress. The Trump administration has removed the exhibits referencing enslavement without statutory authority.

Broad strokes of Trump attacks

Last May, all 433 National Park Service installations and other Interior Department holdings were given a mid-September 2025 deadline to "rid exhibits, signs, films and bookstores of statements and literature" that Trump and Interior Secretary Doug Burgum determined unduly focused on "how bad slavery was." (New York Times, Aug. 19, 2025)

They ordered a plaque removed at Muir Woods National Monument in California, that described the beneficial relationship of the planet's tallest trees in slowing down global warming. They ordered employees at Lowell National Historical Park in Massachusetts to stop showing films about the women and immigrants exploited in that city's textile mills.

Native News Online noted Sept. 8 that the National Museum of the American Indian was one of eight Smithsonian institutions under mandatory review with Trump's Executive Order. Its goal was to sugarcoat history while glorifying the crimes of white European settler colonialists.

The Indigenous news service reported that at the National Conservatism Conference in Washington, D.C., in early September, Senator Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.) voiced a settler-colonial, false narrative that "America was founded by and intended for Europeans."

Alluding to the Manifest Destiny doctrine, Schmitt claimed: "We're a nation of settlers, explorers and pioneers — born on the ocean waters that carried the first ships to our shores and forged in the crucible of a wild frontier. Our people tamed a continent, built a civilization from the wilderness and wrote our nation's name in history."

But the true history that Trump, Schmitt and other neofascists want to wipe away is the genocidal attacks that these settler colonialists carried out against Indigenous peoples, equating Indigenous resistance to "barbarism," much like Israel does today with the Palestinian Resistance.

Dismantling historic monuments will not eradicate the over 400 years of racism, colonialism, white supremacy and imperialism in the U.S. It won't change the facts that Indigenous peoples, enslaved Africans, workers and immigrants organized and fought back, often together.

The resistance to the murderous occupations of Minneapolis and other U.S. cities by agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today only serves to underscore that the class struggle will continue until capitalism and imperialism are finally swept into the dustbin of history. ❐

WORKERS WORLD editorials

Big Lies – help them crumble!

Will January 2026 be remembered as the month when U.S. imperialism's Big Lies crumbled? Workers World and other anti-imperialist and pro-socialist forums must wrestle with this question to devise a plan of action to collapse them further.

There's no doubt that the White House's Big Lies about the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) storm troopers in Minnesota have failed for now. But other big lies — meaning those repeated so often in the ruling class's propaganda machine that they are imposed on society — still prevail. Let's examine the crises of January and how they played out so far.

(1) ICE thugs occupying Minneapolis murdered Renee Good on Jan. 7 and abducted 5-year-old Liam Conejo Ramos on Jan. 20 to use as a hostage. These crimes fueled an unprecedented Jan. 23 general political strike and mass demonstration of over 50,000 people who shut down Minneapolis and affected hundreds of cities. The next day, after Customs and Border Protection killers murdered Alex Pretti, the people called another strike for Jan. 30.

(2) A U.S. warfleet in the Caribbean Sea, after sinking 25 small boats and killing over 100 sailors over a period of four months, on Jan. 3 bombed Caracas, Venezuela. U.S. Special Forces kidnapped President Nicolás Maduro and former head of the national assembly and revolutionary combatant Cilia Flores. The U.S. now holds the two Venezuelan political leaders hostage in a Brooklyn, New York, prison.

(3) The White House ordered a U.S. aircraft carrier fleet to sail toward Iran, threatening a superdestructive bombing raid and possible commando landing. A regional war is possible.

(4) The White House said the U.S. would impose tariffs and otherwise punish any country delivering petroleum or other fuel to Cuba. This, in addition to the already 60-year-plus economic blockade, threatens to strangle the Cuban economy.

These reactionary acts and threats all rely on military force and / or economic strangulation. As polls show, they clash with most people's wishes to avoid wars. What support they get — or hostility they avoid — depends on drowning the population in a Niagara of big lies aimed at deceiving them.

The events in Minneapolis and its residents' reaction disrupted the usual Big Lie process. Everyone who follows the news saw videos or otherwise learned that top U.S. government officials tell blatant lies. They do it even when they know they are lying, and they know everyone else knows it.

Against all Trump's Big Lies, NYC, Jan. 31, 2026. WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

What aided the demise of the lies was the open conflict among ruling-class politicians and in the corporate media. Even Democratic Party politicians in Minnesota publicly rejected the arguments of the administration and demanded ICE get out. The section of the corporate media that opposes the MAGA regime's tactics disseminated at least part of the truth.

The people of Minneapolis, with organizational support from labor unions and encouraged by media criticism of ICE, confronted the threats and held a successful general political strike on Jan. 23. The next day, after Pretti was murdered, mass reaction was even more vehement and forced the MAGA regime to at least make a cosmetic retreat. This gave a big morale boost to the anti-fascist, anti-ICE movement.

To summarize: The administration lied about Minneapolis and was unable to hide its lies. The Trumpites are sure to lie even more about Venezuela, Cuba and Iran, where it is harder to expose their lies. It's harder, because the corporate media and the Democratic Party repeat all the MAGA criminals' lies about Venezuela, Cuba and Iran.

U.S. imperialism uses sanctions to deprive the people of Venezuela, Cuba and Iran of food and income with the goal of strangling the independent governments of those countries. Since sanctions alone failed to overthrow those governments, U.S. imperialism turned to war. The government invents whatever pretext its propagandists believe might work.

At this moment, the anti-ICE attitude is so widespread that many artists at the Grammy awards ceremony Feb. 1 condemned ICE. The experience of Minneapolis enables people to challenge the lies of the big liars of this administration (and don't forget their co-imperialists in the leadership of the Democratic Party) and the corporate media.

Right now the antiwar and anti-imperialist movement has an opening to expose their Big Lies — that they use as a pretext for whatever war they start. Consider the Gulf of Tonkin in 1964 for Vietnam or the non-existent "weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq in 2003.

These are slogans anti-imperialists can bring to any protests against ICE or against MAGA: They lied about Minneapolis. They lie about Venezuela. They lie about Cuba. They lie about Iran.

Abolish ICE! Feed the people, not the Pentagon! Stop the U.S. war drive! ❐

What unites Palestine and Minneapolis

During the January 23 protest at Union Square in New York City, Workers World Party displayed placards saying: "Stop the Occupation from Minneapolis to Palestine!" This message was not intended to equate the almost 78-year-old apartheid, Zionist military control over an entire people to the current invasion of Minneapolis by 3,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) storm troopers. Occupations of any nature should not be presented as the same.

The slogan aimed to illustrate that despite being geographically thousands of miles apart, Palestine and Minneapolis face a common enemy with no borders — and that enemy is U.S. imperialism.

It is imperialism — a worldwide system of capitalism — that backs and sustains the settler-colonial, Israeli genocide to terrorize the Palestinian people, especially in Gaza and the West Bank. And it is this same system under which ICE thugs in Minneapolis have terrorized migrant communities, especially Somalis, since early December. Lest we forget, six years ago, Minneapolis was the epicenter of the struggle against police brutality when the video of George Floyd's lynching ignited a spontaneous rebellion.

It is not surprising that there is a direct connection between the training of the Israeli Defense Force (aka Israeli Occupation Force/IOF) and police departments and federal repressive forces across the U.S., including ICE. According to accuracy.org: "Thousands of law enforcement officials have traveled to Israel to learn new repression strategies and surveillance techniques from the Israel National Police, Israel Defense Forces, and the Shin Bet, who inflict violence, crowd control, and surveillance onto Palestinians. … Police departments in New York, Los Angeles, New Orleans and Atlanta, among others, have close ties with Israeli forces." (June 10, 2025)

ICE is a creation of the federal government's Department of Homeland Security. Similar to the U.S. Border Patrol, ICE is given free rein to indiscriminately detain, deport and brutalize anyone they deem "illegal" using the biased criteria of how they look and how they speak.

These storm troopers have been given a legal license to break into people's homes when and wherever they want without any warrants, a clear violation of the Fourth Amendment that supposedly protects individual residences and to a lesser extent public spaces like schools and businesses from "unreasonable searches and seizures" without warrants.

And as we have tragically witnessed with the murders of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, ICE and the Border Control have the green light to kill with impunity anyone who expresses any inkling of class solidarity with their migrant neighbors. None of the officers responsible for the executions of these two anti-ICE monitors have been arrested or prosecuted.

New York City protest, Jan. 23, 2026 WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Resistance on many fronts

Since Oct. 7, 2023, the Palestinian Resistance has been in the forefront of inspiring millions of people around the world to confront the Nazi-like state of Israel and its U.S. backers with mass protests, boycotts and direct actions organized by students and workers. This Resistance continues to survive despite being demonized as "terrorist" and targeted with the assassination of its leaders by imperialist war criminals Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu.

And there is a direct parallel from what is happening in Palestine to Minneapolis when Kristi Noem, the head of Homeland Security, falsely labels Good and Pretti "domestic terrorists" to justify their murders.

Police occupations of communities of color have been ongoing within class society divided into the haves and have nots; the oppressed versus the oppressor. The Floyd murder is a reflection of this antagonistic relationship. But ICE adds another extra-legal, terrorist dimension of capitalist violence. That is fascist terror which openly threatens the destruction of the bourgeois democratic rights of the workers and oppressed.

The existence of both ICE and the IOF reflects the growing, permanent instability of the capitalist economic system. The only response to ending this repression and the system that thrives on it is a united revolutionary, militant and working-class movement at home and abroad. ❐

The significance of the Palestinian struggle

By Sue Harris

The foreign minister of Iran, Abbas Aragchi, gave a speech at the Al Jazeera forum in Doha, Qatar, focused on "The Palestinian cause and the Regional Balance of Power in the Context of an Emerging Multipolar World." (IRNA, Feb. 7)

His talk contained several important statements stressing that the struggle in Palestine is "more than a local struggle, and Palestine is not merely a cause for solidarity; it is the indispensable cornerstone of regional security. ... Palestine is the defining question of justice in West Asia and beyond. It is the strategic and moral compass of our region."

Aragchi stated: "Palestine is a test of whether international law has meaning, whether human rights have universal value and whether global institutions exist to protect the weak — or merely to rationalize the power of the strong. ... For generations, the Palestinian crisis was understood primarily as the consequence of an illegal occupation and the denial of an inalienable right: the right of a people to self-determination. But today, we must recognize that the crisis has moved far beyond the parameters of occupation alone.

"What we are witnessing in Gaza is not merely war. It is not a 'conflict' between equal parties. It is not an unfortunate byproduct of security measures. It is the deliberate destruction of civilian life on a massive scale. It is genocide."

Aragchi continued: "The human cost of Israel's atrocities in Gaza has wounded the conscience of humanity. It has torn open the heart of the Muslim world — and it has also shaken millions beyond it: Christians, Jews and people of all faiths who still believe that the life of a child is not a bargaining chip, that starvation is not a weapon, that hospitals are not battlefields and that the killing of families is not self-defense. ...

"Palestine today is not simply a tragedy; it is a mirror held up to the world. It reflects not only the suffering of Palestinians but also the moral failure of those who had the power to stop this catastrophe — and chose instead to justify it, enable it. ... But Palestine and Gaza is not only a humanitarian crisis. It has become the platform for something larger and more dangerous: an expansionist project pursued under the banner of 'security.'

"The Israeli regime's conduct in Palestine, and the impunity granted to it, have deeply damaged the international legal order. We must say this clearly: the world is moving toward a condition where international law no longer is respected and governs international relations.

"What is perhaps most dangerous is the precedent being established: that if a state has sufficient political cover and protection, it may bomb civilians, besiege populations, target infrastructure, assassinate individuals across borders and still demand to be regarded as lawful.

"This is not merely a Palestinian problem. It is a global problem. We are witnessing not only the tragedy of Palestine, but the transformation of the world into a place where the law is replaced by force.

"The question therefore is not whether Israel's actions threaten Palestinians alone. The question is whether the region will accept a future in which borders are temporary, sovereignty is conditional and security is determined not by law or diplomacy but by the ambitions of a militarized occupier. ... Under this project, Israel is free to expand its military arsenal without limits, including weapons of mass destruction that remain outside any inspection regime. Yet other countries are demanded to disarm. Others are pressured to reduce defensive capacity. Others are punished for scientific progress. Others are sanctioned for building resilience. ...

"Nobody should be confused: This is not arms control. It is not non-proliferation. It is not security. It is the enforcement of permanent inequality: Israel must have a 'military, intelligence and strategic edge,' and others must remain vulnerable. This is a doctrine of domination. ... This is why the Palestinian question is not only a humanitarian issue. It is a strategic issue. It is not only about Gaza and the West Bank. It is about the future of our region and the rules of the world."

Doctrine of domination

This doctrine of domination, as Aragchi calls it, exists not only in West Asia but all over the world. It exists in U.S. imperialism's embargo on Venezuela, the murder of fishers, the unlawful kidnaping of President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores; the arrogant demand that Venezuela's oil belongs to the U.S., a regular 'stickup' as the journalist, Mumia Abu-Jamal, so aptly put it.

It exists in the illegal and murderous actions of ICE in Minnesota and, in fact, all over the country, where children are separated from their parents and imprisoned, where schools, hospitals and workplaces are raided, people detained on questionable grounds of being in the country "illegally."

It exists in the kidnapping of Indigenous people who are accused of being "illegal" because of the color of their skin, where people are taken away and "death cards" are left in the place from where they are taken, as a sign that ICE has been there. (The Intercept, Jan. 3)

In fact, this doctrine of domination has existed for centuries, in one form or another, wherever there is violent imposition of the will of the more powerful monied class over the oppressed. Wars of conquest, slavery and systems of exploitation of one class over another have existed throughout the centuries of class society, often covered by pious statements of entitlement.

But things are changing. The world is getting smaller. Information is travelling faster. It's harder to keep imperialism's atrocities hidden. It's harder to keep people ignorant. It's harder to shut up those fighting back. There have been successful changes in different parts of the world that have produced universally positive results, without domination of U.S. or European imperialism. Human consciousness is changing, impacted by the struggles of workers and oppressed peoples worldwide, most notably today, the Palestinians, who have risen up in resistance to their U.S./backed Zionist occupiers.

When the foreign minister of Iran says that the countries of Western Asia must unite, must not accept atrocities but together must take legal and economic action to stop them, it's significant. He declares: "The international community must affirm: the end of occupation, the right of return and compensation in accordance with international law, and the establishment of a unified and independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital," and also, "security cannot be built on the insecurity of others. ... the Islamic world, the Arab world and the nations of the Global South must build a united diplomatic front."

Aragchi's statement is essential in the development of an anti-Zionist, anti-imperialist worldview and movement around the globe.

U.S. Hands off Iran! ❐

Mediterranean political general strike obstructs arms deliveries

By John Catalinotto

Dockworkers at 20 ports on the Mediterranean Sea launched a political strike Feb. 6 and held demonstrations against war and the expanded military budgets, especially in European Union countries. The strike targeted ships suspected of bringing arms to Israeli ports. Dockworkers also protested the privatization and militarization of port infrastructure.

The strikes were called at a meeting in Genoa last fall hosted by the Unione Sindacale di Base (USB or grassroots union), located in Italy. It was joined by Enedep (Greece), the Democratic Labor Organization of Morocco, Liman-Is (Türkiye) and LAB (Langile Abertzaleen Batzordeak, Basque for Nationalist Workers' Committees, a left, pro-independence union in the Basque Country in the Spanish state).

This fourth strike action since mid-2025 spread the idea of a general political strike. Momentum for workers' actions grew based on solidarity with the Palestinian resistance to Israel's genocidal war.

In Italy, strikes were organized in port cities of Ancona, Bari, Cagliari, Civitavecchia, Crotone, Genoa, Livorno, Palermo, Ravenna, Salerno, and Trieste. Not only dockworkers and port employees but also students and others joined the actions.

According to the International Middle East Media Center, during the strike, several ships headed toward Israel had to adjust their schedules or remain offshore. This included ships operated by Zim Integrated Shipping Services and MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company.

Demonstrations began in the morning in the Greek ports of Piraeus and Elefsina, in Türkiye's Mersin, and in Bilbao and Pasaia in the Basque Country. In Greece, dockworkers contrasted the massive European Union (EU) expansion of armaments and the government's cuts to public services and infrastructure, which create increasingly unsafe working conditions. (People's Dispatch, Feb. 8)

Reporting from all striking ports, USB representatives addressed assemblies as participants displayed Palestinian and Cuban flags. The unions urged Europe's labor movement to orient toward international solidarity to block the anti-worker agenda of the EU and right-wing governments.

Participants emphasized that the international dockworkers' strike is not the end. Strikers in Ravenna, Italy, said: "Today it's the ports, tomorrow it will be the entire logistics sector, and then it will be all workers." (Peoples Dispatch)

Solidarity actions were also organized at ports in France, Germany and North Africa. Unionists called the action part of a wider discussion about labor rights and the ethical use of ports during international conflicts, especially regarding an occupation state like Israel.

Moroccan dockworkers were forced to postpone their action when a storm closed ports. Some U.S. solidarity actions occurred and Amazon Labor Union founder Chris Smalls joined the Genoa rally. U.S. antiwar activists held a webinar on Feb. 6 in solidarity with the Mediterranean strike. ❐

PHOTO: POTERE AL POPOLO TERNI/FACEBOOK

'The port that resists: against wars, rearmament and fascist laws.' Ancona, Italy, Feb. 6, 2026.

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MO FOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Contra todas las grandes mentiras de Trump, Nueva York, 31 de enero de 2026.

Las grandes mentiras: ayudémosles a desmoronarse

editorial

¿Se recordará enero de 2026 como el mes en que se desmoronaron las grandes mentiras del imperialismo estadounidense? Mundo Obrero y otros foros antiimperialistas y prosocialistas deben lidiar con esta pregunta para idear un plan de acción que les haga desmoronarse aún más.

No hay duda de que las grandes mentiras de la Casa Blanca sobre los soldados de asalto del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) en Minnesota han fracasado por ahora. Pero otras grandes mentiras, es decir, aquellas que se repiten tan a menudo en la maquinaria propagandística de la clase dominante que se imponen a la sociedad, siguen prevaleciendo. Examinemos las crisis de enero y cómo se han desarrollado hasta ahora.

(1) Los matones del ICE que ocupaban Minneapolis asesinaron a Renee Good el 7 de enero y secuestraron al niño de 5 años Liam Conejo Ramos el 20 de enero para utilizarlo como rehén. Estos crímenes provocaron una huelga política general sin precedentes el 23 de enero y una manifestación masiva de más de 50 000 personas que paralizaron Minneapolis y afectaron a cientos de ciudades. Al día siguiente, después de que los asesinos de la Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza asesinaran a Alex Pretti, el pueblo convocó otra huelga para el 30 de enero.

(2) Una flota de guerra estadounidense en el mar Caribe, después de hundir 25 pequeñas embarcaciones y matar a más de 100 marineros en un período de cuatro meses, bombardeó Caracas, Venezuela, el 3 de enero. Las Fuerzas Especiales de los Estados Unidos secuestraron al presidente Nicolás Maduro y a la ex presidenta de la Asamblea Nacional y combatiente revolucionaria Cilia Flores. Los Estados Unidos mantienen ahora a los dos líderes políticos venezolanos como rehenes en una prisión de Brooklyn, Nueva York.

(3) La Casa Blanca ordenó a una flota de portaaviones estadounidenses que navegara hacia Irán, amenazando con un bombardeo super destructivo y un posible desembarco de comandos. Es posible que se produzca una guerra regional.

(4) La Casa Blanca dijo que Estados Unidos impondría aranceles y castigaría de otras formas a cualquier país que suministrara petróleo u otros combustibles a Cuba. Esto, además del bloqueo económico que ya dura más de 60 años, amenaza con estrangular la economía cubana.

Todos estos actos y amenazas reaccionarios se basan en la fuerza militar y/o el estrangulamiento económico. Como muestran las encuestas, chocan con el deseo de la mayoría de la gente de evitar las guerras. El apoyo que reciben —o la hostilidad que evitan— depende de ahogar a la población en una catarata de grandes mentiras destinadas a engañarla.

Los acontecimientos de Minneapolis y la reacción de sus residentes interrumpieron el habitual proceso de la Gran Mentira. Todos los que siguen las noticias vieron vídeos o se enteraron de otra manera de que los altos funcionarios del Gobierno estadounidense dicen mentiras descaradas. Lo hacen incluso cuando saben que están mintiendo, y saben que todos los demás lo saben.

Lo que contribuyó a la desaparición de las mentiras fue el conflicto abierto entre los políticos de la clase dominante y en los medios de comunicación corporativos. Incluso los políticos del Partido Demócrata de Minnesota rechazaron públicamente los argumentos de la administración y exigieron la salida del ICE. La parte de los medios de comunicación corporativos que se opone a las tácticas del régimen MAGA difundió al menos parte de la verdad.

La población de Minneapolis, con el apoyo organizativo de los sindicatos y animada por las críticas de los medios de comunicación al ICE, se enfrentó a las amenazas y llevó a cabo con éxito una huelga política general el 23 de enero. Al día siguiente, tras el asesinato de Pretti, la reacción masiva fue aún más vehemente y obligó al régimen MAGA a realizar al menos una retirada cosmética. Esto supuso un gran impulso moral para el movimiento antifascista y anti-ICE.

En resumen: la administración mintió sobre Minneapolis y no pudo ocultar sus mentiras. Los trumpistas seguramente mentirán aún más sobre Venezuela, Cuba e Irán, donde es más difícil desenmascarar sus mentiras. Es más difícil porque los medios de comunicación corporativos y el Partido Demócrata repiten todas las mentiras de los criminales de MAGA sobre Venezuela, Cuba e Irán.

El imperialismo estadounidense utiliza sanciones para privar al pueblo de Venezuela, Cuba e Irán de alimentos e ingresos con el objetivo de estrangular a los gobiernos independientes de esos países. Como las sanciones por sí solas no lograron derrocar a esos gobiernos, el imperialismo estadounidense recurrió a la guerra. El gobierno inventa cualquier pretexto que sus propagandistas crean que puede funcionar.

En este momento, la actitud contra el ICE está tan extendida que muchos artistas condenaron al ICE en la ceremonia de los premios Grammy el 1 de febrero. La experiencia de Minneapolis permite a la gente desafiar las mentiras de los grandes mentirosos de esta administración (y no olvide a sus co imperialistas en la dirección del Partido Demócrata) y de los medios de comunicación corporativos.

En este momento, el movimiento contra la guerra y contra el imperialismo tiene una oportunidad para desenmascarar sus grandes mentiras, que utilizan como pretexto para cualquier guerra que inicien. Piensen en el Golfo de Tonkin en 1964 para Vietnam o en las inexistentes «armas de destrucción masiva» en Irak en 2003.

Estos son los lemas que los antiimperialistas pueden llevar a cualquier protesta contra el ICE o contra MAGA: Mintieron sobre Minneapolis. Mienten sobre Venezuela. Mienten sobre Cuba. Mienten sobre Irán.

¡Abolición del ICE! ¡Alimenten al pueblo, no al Pentágono! ¡Detengan la campaña bélica de Estados Unidos! □

Cuba condena y denuncia nueva escalada del cerco económico de Estados Unidos

El Gobierno Revolucionario condena en los términos más enérgicos la nueva escalada del gobierno de los Estados Unidos contra Cuba, en su empeño por imponer un cerco absoluto a los suministros de combustible a nuestro país.

La orden ejecutiva del Presidente estadounidense, anunciada el 29 de enero de 2026, declara una supuesta emergencia nacional, en virtud de la cual su gobierno podrá imponer aranceles comerciales a las importaciones de productos provenientes de países que suministren petróleo a Cuba.

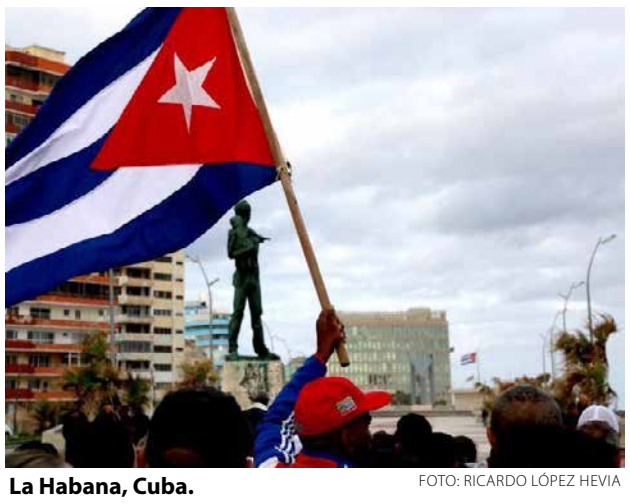
Para justificar una acción tan extrema, se esgrime en el texto de la referida orden una lista extensa de mentiras y acusaciones difamatorias contra Cuba. Destaca entre ellas la absurda aseveración de que Cuba constituye una "amenaza inusual y extraordinaria" para la seguridad nacional de los Estados Unidos. El propio Presidente y su gobierno están conscientes de que nadie o muy pocos pueden creer argumentos tan mendaces, pero no les importa. Así es su desprecio por la verdad, la opinión pública y la ética gubernamental cuando se trata de avalar su agresión contra Cuba.

Con esta decisión, el gobierno de los Estados Unidos, a través del chantaje, la amenaza y la coerción directa a terceros países, intenta imponer componentes adicionales de presión a las acciones de asfixia económica que desde el primer mandato de Trump fueron dispuestas para impedir la entrada de combustibles a nuestro país. Consolida una forma peligrosa de conducir la política exterior de los Estados Unidos por vía de la fuerza y de ejercer sus ambiciones para garantizar su hegemonismo imperialista. Conforme a lo anunciado, ese país se adjudica el derecho de dictar a Estados soberanos con qué naciones pueden comerciar y a cuáles pueden exportar sus productos nacionales.

La orden ejecutiva del Presidente de los Estados Unidos constituye, por tanto, una violación flagrante del Derecho Internacional y atenta, además, contra la Proclama de América Latina y el Caribe como Zona de Paz. Ratifica que es el gobierno de ese país el que atenta contra la seguridad, la estabilidad y la paz de la región y del mundo.

El gobierno de los Estados Unidos llega a este punto tras haber fracasado durante 67 años en rendir y destruir un proceso político y revolucionario genuino y legítimo, de plena soberanía, justicia social y fomento de la paz y la solidaridad con el resto del mundo.

Está ampliamente documentada la disposición histórica de Cuba a sostener con el gobierno de los Estados Unidos un diálogo serio, responsable, basado en el respeto mutuo, en el beneficio recíproco, sin injerencia en los asuntos internos y con absoluto respeto a la independencia y a la soberanía de los Estados.



La Habana, Cuba. FOTO: RICARDO LÓPEZ HEVIA

Como todo el mundo conoce, incluyendo el propio gobierno estadounidense, Cuba no constituye amenaza alguna para los Estados Unidos, sus intereses nacionales o el bienestar de los ciudadanos de ese país que, además, siempre han sido tratados con respeto y hospitalidad cuando su gobierno les ha permitido visitar la isla. Cuba no amenaza o agrede a país alguno. No es objeto de sanciones por parte de la comunidad internacional. Es un país de paz, solidario y cooperativo, dispuesto a ayudar y contribuir con otros Estados.

Es también el país de un pueblo aguerrido y combatiente. Se confunde el imperialismo cuando confía en que con la presión económica y el empeño en provocar sufrimiento a millones de personas, se va a doblegar su determinación de defender la soberanía nacional y de impedir que Cuba caiga, una vez más, bajo el dominio estadounidense.

Tiene ante sí la comunidad internacional el reto ineludible de definir si un crimen de esta naturaleza podrá ser el signo de lo que está por venir o si prevalecerán la cordura, la solidaridad y el rechazo a la agresión, la impunidad y el abuso.

Enfrentaremos la nueva arremetida con firmeza, ecuanimidad y seguridad de que la razón está absolutamente de nuestra parte. La decisión es una:

¡Patria o Muerte, Venceremos!

La Habana, 30 de enero de 2026. □